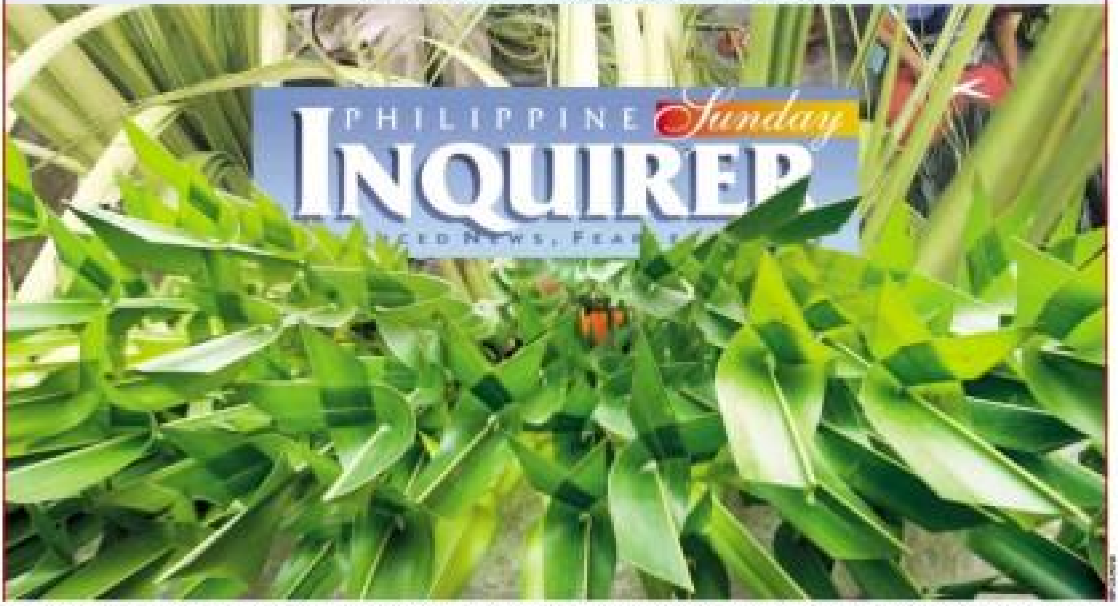
Sunday, April 5, 2009 • Vol. 24 / No. 118 website: www.inquirer.net



PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

FOR TRUE BELIEVERS, the waving of palm branches today ushers in the holiest week in the Catholic calendar. It starts with the symbolic celebration of the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem to shouts of hosannas and palms raised high in triumph from an adoring crowd. Before the week is out, the stirring welcome wears off, cheers turn to jeers; the sheltering palms into scourgings at the pillar and the hosannas into "crucify him."

Hostages' fate up to GMA

Gordon fears 'macabre' birthday gift for Arroyo

By Michael Lim Ubac
in Manila
and Julie Alipala
in Zamboanga City

THE FATE OF TWO FOREIGN AID WORKERS STILL HELD captive by the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo, Sulu, is now in the hands of President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is marking her 62nd birthday today, Sen. Richard Gordon warned yesterday.

Gordon said that in effect, the life or death of Italian Eugenio Vagni and Swiss Andreas Notter of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) depended on Ms Arroyo who, he pointed out, had the power to order government troops to pull back from the area surrounding the bandits' camp.

According to Gordon, the bandit leader Albader Parad has not withdrawn his ultimatum to behead a hostage if the military refused to pull back from certain areas.

"Parad doesn't have to [inform us ahead of time]. He never withdrew the ultimatum. It's up to you guys. Don't blame me," said Gordon, the national chair of the Philippine National Red Cross.

"I need to talk to the President and her Cabinet. If they don't want to talk to me, it's up to them," the senator said

HOSTAGES'FATE A7

It's Funny Eddie at launching of 12th book of essays, speeches

By Fe Zamora

IF FIDEL V. RAMOS WAS ONCE "Steady Eddie," now you can call him "Funny Eddie."

The octogenarian ex-President launched the 12th volume of his collection of essays and speeches on Thursday and had everyone in stitches.

He wore his "eyeglasses"—a pair without lenses—and bragged that he still had all his teeth.

He also announced, with relish: "I used to have gun and ammunition in my socks; now it's eyeglasses and a tabako (cigar)."

And like a politician, he made a promise to give "free copies of the book to any independent politician who does not belong to any political party.

IT'S FUNNY A6



JUDY LARDIZABAL Her professors predicted she would top the bar, the first topnotcher for San Sebastian Recoletos College of Law. Daughter of a tricycle driver, on-the-job training for her undergrad social work course at UP brought her to the arms of the law.

Topnotcher was scared she would flunk the bar

By Jeannette I. Andrade

JUDY LARDIZABAL WAS SO AFRAID she would flunk that she took off early from work and stayed home when the results of the 2008 bar examinations were announced. She said she was afraid she would flood the office with her tears.

Not only was her name on the list of exam passers, it was on the very top, the first graduate of San Sebastian Recoletos College of Law to top the bar.

So afraid was Lardizabal, 28, a technical assistant at the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), that she would not even dare look at the list of successful examinees.

"I was afraid that when I looked under 'L,' Lardizabal would not be in it," she recalled with a laugh.

In an interview, Lardizabal confided that she was actually more afraid of letting down the people who prayed a lot for her and had placed so much confidence in her abilities.

"While I was waiting for the results, I was really already thinking

TOPNOTCHER A4

Matabungkay beckons for the crisis-weary

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THANKS TO THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC crisis, resorts lining the beach of Matabungkay are looking forward to doing good business during Holy Week, with this stretch of Batangas coastline suddenly proving to be popular once again with domestic tourists.

Matabungkay, located in the town of Lian about three hours by public transport from the capital, "is the nearest clean beach to Metro Manila," said barangay chair Teodoro Palabrug.

"Those who don't want to spend a lot going to faraway beaches like Boracay can just come here," he said.

Vacationers started trooping to Matabungkay as early as last weekend, he said. Many of these beach trippers are students on their summer break.

Palabrug and residents who were

MATABUNGKAY A7



Going to the beach? Don't forget to bring garbage bags, too

By Alcuin Papa

GOING TO THE BEACH? BRING your bikini, sunblock and a garbage bag.

An environmental group has advised Boracay-bound vacationers to pick up their garbage, say no to plastics and walk more to save fuel.

In launching its "Save the Climate, Save Boracay" campaign yesterday, Greenpeace batted for terrestrial tourist awareness to make the island, one of the country's top

GOING A6

Like Galapagos, RP has extraordinary biodiversity, says expert

By Sunshine Lichauco de Leon
Contributor

WE COULD HAVE WELL INSPIRED Darwin.

The Philippines has "the kind of diversity that most people associate with the Galapagos Islands," according to Dr. Lawrence Heaney, the curator and head of mammals at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Created by volcanoes and located some 972 kilometers west of Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands' vast number of endemic species, not found anywhere else on earth, inspired Darwin's theory of evolution.

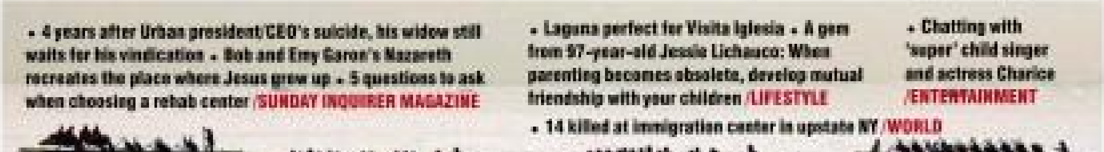
Citing the fact that 25 previously unknown species of mammals were recently discovered in the country, Heaney, a renowned authority on island ecosystems, told an audience of students, scientists, NGOs and government officials at the US Embassy last week that he believes the Philippines "is an extraordinary place for biodiversity."

Since the early 1980s, Heaney has teamed up with Filipino biologists to conduct field studies on small mammals like bats, rats and mice throughout the Philippines.

Based on this research, he concluded that the Philippines was one of the world's premier natural laboratories for understanding biodiversity.

"The islands of this archipelago are 10 to even 100 times better for observing the kind of diversity that most peo-

LIKE GALAPAGOS A4



BLACK ON GREY Dragonboat teams racing against each other during a practice session in Manila Bay makes for a riveting portrait of shadow and light.

Second FRONT PAGE

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Palace to solons: Review tax laws to get off blacklist

By TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY PRESSED ADMINistration lawmakers to review the tax laws to get the country stricken off the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) blacklist of noncooperative tax havens.

Give more, stimulus packages not enough, cardinal tells faithful

By Dona Pazzibugan

BE GENEROUS BECAUSE THE government can't do it all.

Palm fronds can't ward off evil, says prelate

By Dona Pazzibugan

THEY ARE NOT LUCKY CHARMS or repellents of evil.

RP gets 10-M euros to boost farming

GMA keeps full sked as she turns 62

THE BIRTHDAY GIRL WILL BE on the job just like any other working girl, even if she happens to be the president.

'Wanna be president? Then you must debate'

'Greediest' list includes Imelda

WHAT DO FORMER FIRST LADY Imelda Marcos, Genghis Khan, Pope Sixtus IV and Bernard Madoff have in common?

They are among the 11 persons on the list of the "greediest people of all time" compiled by Newsweek magazine.

"She saw it as her duty to provide 'some kind of light, a star' for the impoverished Filipino people over whom her husband presided. So she took $5-million shopping sprees to New York and Rome, reportedly amassed the world's largest collections of gems and 3,000 pairs of shoes," Newsweek said.

Marcos, 79, was also known for hosting lavish parties to entertain foreign guests during the reign of her husband, the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The term "Imeldific" was introduced to connote excess and extravagance.

"From Bernard Madoff to AIG's bonus-receiving execs, Wall Street has redefined economic excess. But the Masters of the Universe didn't invent greed," said Newsweek.

Also on the list were Roman general Marcus Licinius Crassus, industrialist William H. Vanderbilt, American politician William M. "Boss" Tweed, Empress Dowager Cixi of China, swindler Charles Ponzi, Wall Street arbitrageur Ivan Boesky and former Tyco International CEO Dennis Kozlowski.

Rubi Pedrosa, Inquirer Research



Death March ultramarathon: Running to honor, help vets

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

No support from promoters

Man known as Bald Runner

Qualifying race for Olympics

In The Know

Bataan Death March of WWII

Gov't appeals merger ruling

THE GOVERNMENT has asked the Sandiganbayan to reconsider its decision allowing the merger of Philippine National Bank and Allied Banking Corp., both owned by tycoon Lucio Tan, because the ownership of the latter bank was still in question.

The antigraft court's Fifth Division on March 19 dismissed the government's petition for a temporary restraining order against the merger on the grounds its application for a TRO had not been properly verified—a technicality.

In its appeal of the resolution filed Friday, the government sought "the indulgence of this honorable court to liberally construe the rules of court so as just to derail the administration of justice in favor of the petitioner."

The government said that with the merger, Allied Bank would cease to exist and this would hamper the government's pursuit of bank shares believed to be part of the ill-gotten wealth of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



Topnotcher was scared she would flunk the bar

Prof's prophecy

A text joke?

'Wind beneath my wings'

No crammer

In God's hands

No. 2 standing up for Muslim women

It's Funny Eddie at launching of 12th …

Eyes on the ball

Power and policy

Reunion

Not done yet

Like Galapagos, RP has extraordinary …

Geological history

Amazing discovery

Fruit bats

Threats to biodiversity

Protecting the environment

Going to the beach? Don't forget to bring …

Manifesto

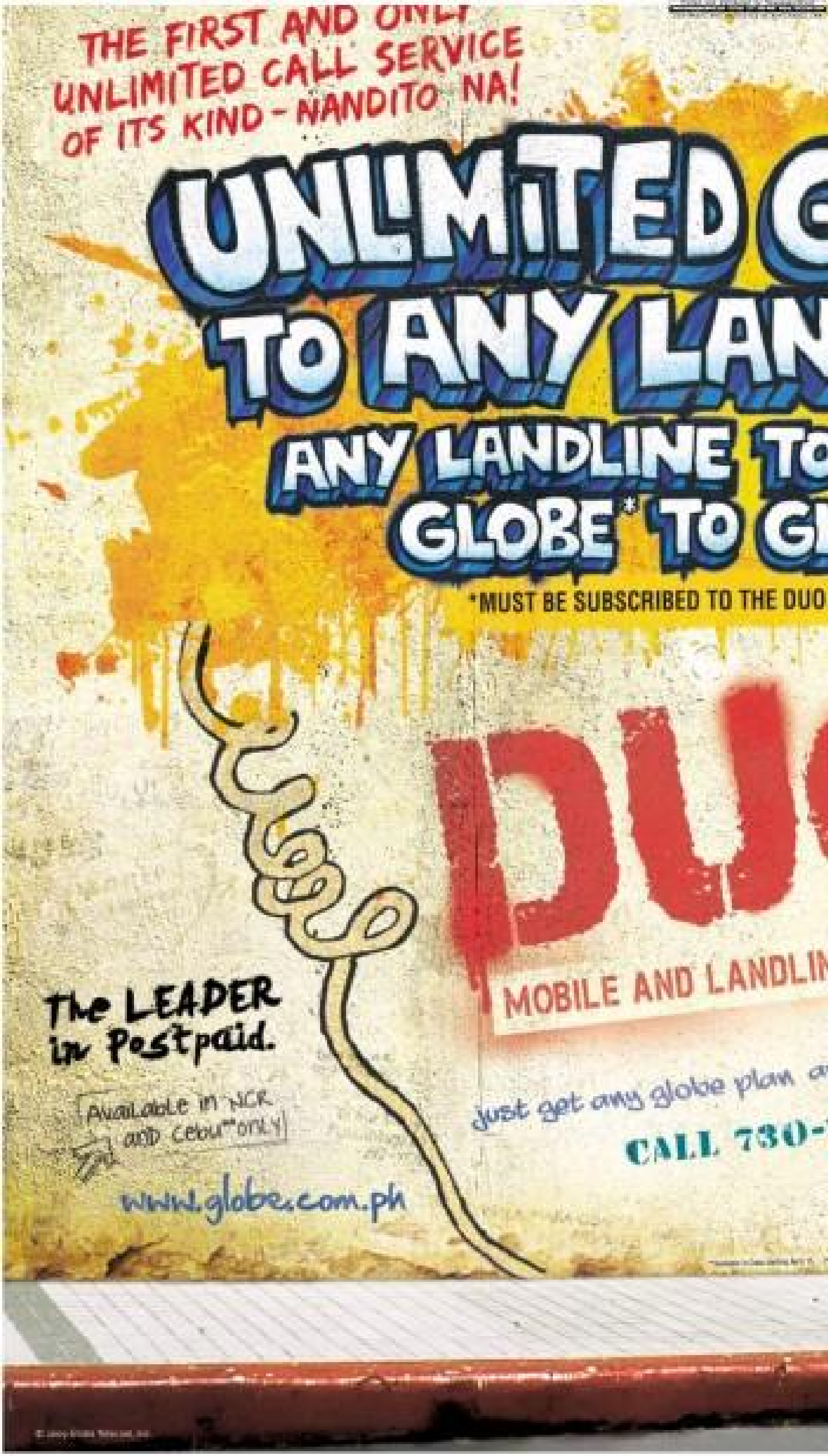
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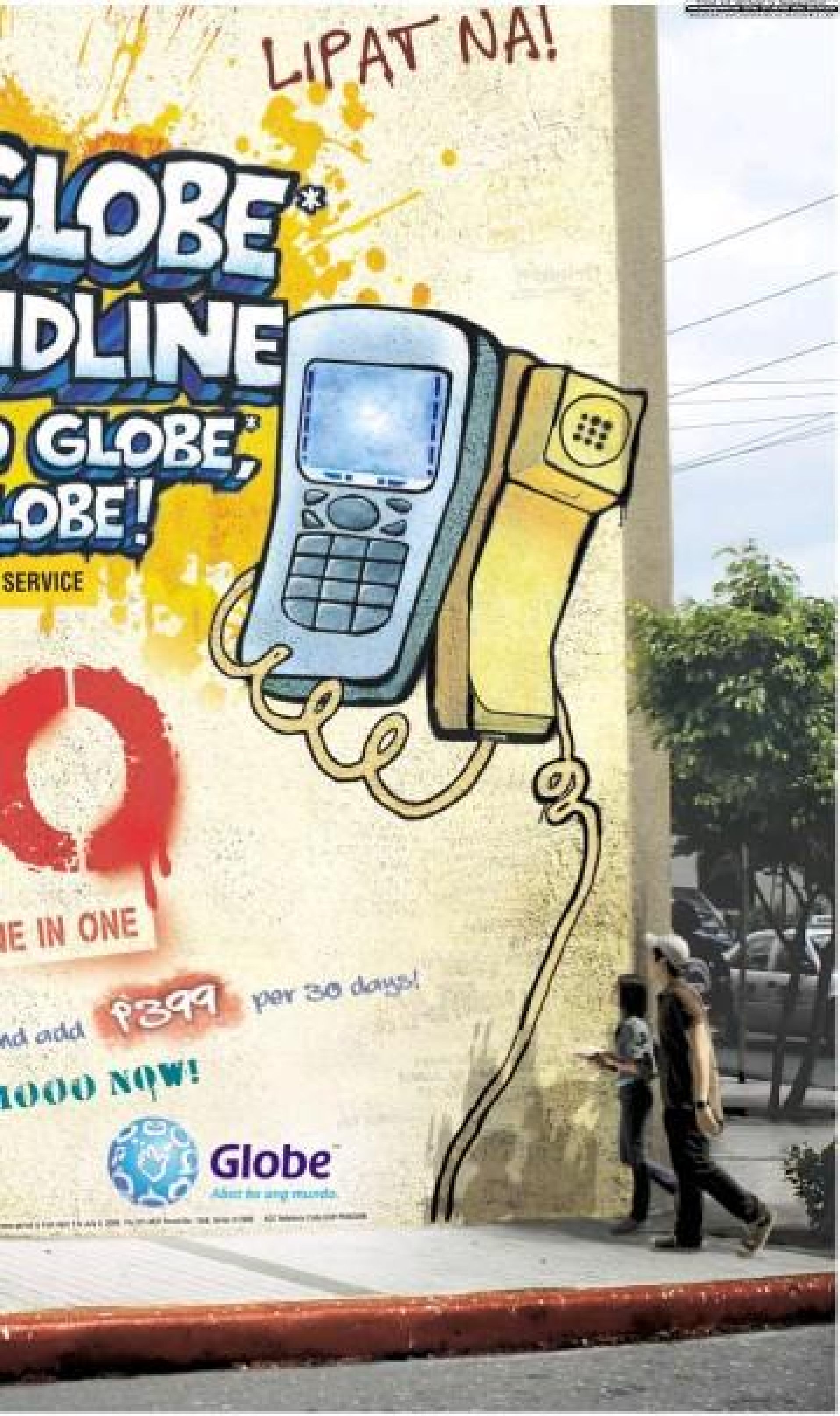
Gov't to step up Sulu development to fight Abu

Hostages' fate up to GMA; Gordon fears 'macabre' gift for her

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Matabungkay beckons for the crisis-weary


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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

The omen

WHEN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO ISSUED her latest grant of executive clemency to Rolito M. Masalili, the country briefly wondered why, then shrugged it off.

Not too far back, on Jan. 25, 2008, Norberto Manero Jr., after 22 years in jail, became a free man by executive clemency. He had been convicted of killing the Italian priest Tullio Favali on April 11, 1985, in a murder whose gruesome details, including the murderer's alleged feasting on the slain priest's brains, made headlines around the world. And for almost an entire generation, the country seemed content with Manero serving out his sentence.

EDITORIAL

But as with so many other things, public indignation seemed to have run out of steam and instead of boiling over at the release of Manero as it once would have, it simply sputtered a bit, and then disappeared. Manero might have waited unrepentant for over two decades but, in the end, his patience and persistence and the lobbying of his patrons and allies paid off.

Manero had, of course, also famously escaped from jail in 1992, but then ended up back in prison. He, from the very start, tried to prove he had clout. After his attempt to escape—making him far from being a model prisoner—he tried to hand to President Fidel Ramos a folder of endorsements (for a pardon) from municipal councils. Ramos, in fact, commuted Manero's sentence from death to life imprisonment. And remember when President Joseph Estrada signed a conditional pardon, only to revoke it when the public outcry proved too widespread and sustained to ignore?

Manero never languished in jail alone, neglected or forgotten. Having been part of the vigilante death squads during the waning days of the dictatorship, it seems his services rendered were recognized—with a debt of gratitude—by officialdom.

Officialdom found him to be a useful person in the '70s and '80s, and his role as one of the leaders of the vigilante group Ilaga, in some minds made him a folk hero. And this essentially is the problem with the release of Manero.

The Commission on Human Rights has embarked on an investigation into the vigilante murders in Davao City. From there, it will surely then focus its attention on the extrajudicial murders in Cebu City, which our columnist Juan Mercado has so consistently pointed out as deserving investigation. And the past few years have shown a dramatic and international clamor for accountability and justice in the case of the extrajudicial liquidation of suspected leftists. Manero's release says it at first you don't succeed in getting a presidential pardon, then try and try again.

The President's latest use of her pardoning power to commute the double life sentence of Masalili, one of the convicted murderers of Eileen Sarmenta and Allan Gomez, hasn't resulted yet in his actual release. In effect, he continues to serve time for the kidnapping and brutal killing of the two students. But the President's clemency paves the way for Masalili to make the transition from maximum to minimum security. The porous and highly corrupt nature of our justice system, being what it is, raises the potential that the man could, essentially, be free henceforth.

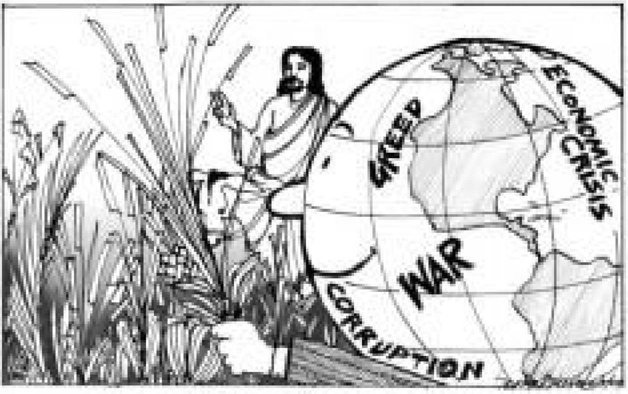
Convicted child rapist Romeo Jalosjos, whom the President had tried to free in 2007 if not for the ensuing eruption of public outrage, was reportedly seen in a private country club weeks before his formal release last month.

This all goes to suggest that the administration has to reconsider its argument that it is merely following procedure, that the President only fulfills a ministerial function; that the real determination of who gets to enjoy presidential relief from the consequences of their crimes is made by various boards in the Department of Justice and its bureaus.

The fact is, clemency is a presidential prerogative; the President can say no. And, conversely, if she really wants to accord clemency to someone, the only obstacle in her path is not the bureaucracy but public opinion. And when it comes to public opinion, the Palace is expert at taking the public pulse and biding its time.

The country has focused on all these cases—Claudio Teehankee Jr., Jalosjos, the convicted assassins of Ninoy Aquino, Manero, and Masalili, precisely because they are high-profile convicts who have come to represent our society's disease; and every intervention by a President essentially overturns what was achieved in the courts with so much difficulty, and that is, justice.

[illegible masthead staff list]



The problems of quality education

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

WITH CLASSES ALREADY ENDED IN MOST schools by now, the next and last important function of the present schoolyear is the commencement exercises. [illegible]

Article XIV, Sec. 1 of the Constitution provides that "the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." [illegible]

[illegible]

The Constitution also requires the State to "establish and maintain a system of free public education in the elementary and high school levels. Without limiting the natural right of parents to rear their children, elementary education is compulsory for all children of school age."

[illegible]

"While every person is entitled to aspire to be a doctor, he does not have a constitutional right to be a doctor. [illegible]"

[illegible]

We remember . . .

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THEY SAY THAT THERE ARE THREE SIGNS that one is growing old. The first sign is that one forgets in the hospital. The second sign is ... what was it again?

* * *

Let us not become a forgetful people. We grow old, but we must not grow cold.

The Holy week is the great time for remembering. Yes, we remember how much He loved us. [illegible]

* * *

We remember what He did on the night before He died. [illegible] "Love one another as I have loved you."

* * *

We remember His words, "Do not afraid, I am with you always." [illegible]

* * *

We remember our mortality. We all will die. We are all pilgrims. [illegible]

* * *

We remember our sinfulness. [illegible]

* * *

We remember that He left us a mission to accomplish. [illegible]

* * *

We remember in shame that we have focused more on ourselves, [illegible]

* * *

We remember that there is an eternity that awaits us. [illegible]

* * *

Finally, we remember that it is not enough to remember. [illegible]

Remembering is going back in order that we can go forward once more, with zeal, and with feeling!

* * *

PHILIPPINE SVD CENTENNIAL MOMENT: [illegible]

* * *

Join us this Holy Week in our media apostolate: [illegible]

* * *

Join us for a pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, Assisi, Rome, Padre Pio's Shrine [illegible]

* * *

Wishing you all a blessed, meaningful and grace-filled Holy Week and a joyous, refreshing Easter. [illegible]

* * *

Food for thought: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." (Plato)

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to remember, and in remembering, help me to live a member again. Amen.

Cha-cha, martial law and hold over

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban



[illegible]

Congratulations from the (vice) mayor of QC

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista



[illegible]

Three simple steps

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



[illegible]

North Korea's missile tantrum

WORLD VIEW

Yang Sung-chul



[illegible]

THEY SAID

Never too late

[illegible]

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to [illegible]

Editor: [illegible]



Heat-energy recovery system

Sensible Heat Energy Recovery System (SHERS) uses heat generated from an air-conditioner or refrigerator to heat water.
A heat recovery system for a one-horsepower air-conditioner or refrigerator costs P22,000 to P32,000. While conventional electrical and solar water heaters sell for about one third of its cost, SHERS does not need electricity or sunlight to heat water, making it an eco-efficient device for the home.
It even helps reduce the air-conditioner's energy consumption by using the water to help cool the air in the room, instead of having electricity do the entire job.
Payback period is anywhere from six months to two years, according to its patent holder Abel Lalanto.
The technology is being used by some multinational companies and industries such as food and tourism (hotels and restaurants).

Text by Bea Katrina M. Camongol
Photos by Toro Z. Cruz

In these times of economic crisis and global warming, the need for sustainable development has become pressing more than ever. The government and the private sector have come up with programs and products that promote sustainable production and consumption. Green or environment-friendly practices are now being used in some firms and industries. But what about households? Are our homes green enough? Efforts to care for the environment should first and foremost be undertaken in our own homes. These can be done with the use of products that consume less energy and other resources. Over time, the use of these products can result not only in savings but also in the reduction of waste and materials harmful to our homes and the environment. Here are 11 products out of the scores of items that 128 exhibitors featured at the Eco-Products International Fair 2009, which was held on March 19-22 at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay. *Caveat emptor.*

Ecoproducts for the home



Compact fluorescent lamp

Much has been said about the efficiency of compact fluorescent lamps or CFLs. They last about five times as long as incandescent lamps and consume 80 percent less energy with the same level of brightness. Incandescent bulbs use only 20 percent of its power on actual lighting as the remaining 80 percent is dissipated as heat. By contrast, CFLs use the energy on lighting alone. This fact, however, makes CFLs a bit pricier—about five times the cost of their incandescent counterparts. But CFLs' low energy consumption not only results in bigger savings on monthly electric bills but also in lesser greenhouse gas emissions.



Biowash ball

Washing clothes without using a detergent may seem odd, but not when you're using Analava biowash ball. Made of natural ceramics, Analava biowash ball alters the chemical composition of the water so it can wash clothes more effectively.
At P2,000 each, one is enough to wash a four-kilogram load. Just immerse it in water for one hour and toss it there while washing. The biowash ball protects fabrics by preventing oxidation and discoloration and by removing odor and fungus. With constant use (at least once a day), the biowash ball may last up to three years, saving on water usage and expenses on laundry detergent.



Cold-cathode fluorescent lamp

With a life span of five years, the EG Light cold-cathode fluorescent lamp promises savings of up to 70 percent on electric bills. It produces minimal heat, thus consuming less energy even when used for a prolonged period. Its mercury content is small compared with other forms of lighting.
Used to light up advertising billboards and signage, the cold cathode mode of lighting will soon be made available to households, according to the product's distributor, Original Saving Light Philippines Inc.



Home-care products

These are multipurpose cleaner, organic detergent powder, organic fabric conditioner, bath soap with skin lighteners and moisturizer, liquid hand soap with moisturizer, and liquid dish-washing detergent.
Made of 100-percent biodegradable materials derived mostly from discarded banana trunks, fruits and vegetables, Planbo All-in-One Solution and Planbo Green Laguna Home Care are inexpensive products. They aim to help care for the environment and provide sustainable livelihood to people involved in their production and sale.
All-in-One Solution is a disinfectant, odor eliminator, multipurpose cleaner, grease cutter or digester, compost activator and wastewater treatment solution in one convenient package. Planbo products have been used and proven effective in many environmental restoration projects, one of the most notable being the rehabilitation of Pasig River. Planbo president Shirly Hernandez hopes that in less than seven years, the Pasig River, with the help of Planbo products, can be restored to its pristine condition.



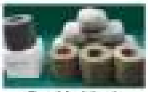
Dual-flush water closet

HCG has heeded the call for water conservation by coming up with toilets that store six liters of water or less.
A design that maximizes water flow enables HCG dual-flush toilets to flush down liquid waste using only three liters of water and solid waste using only 4.8 liters. This is a far cry from the old toilet models that store up to 20 liters of water.
Mars Ting, marketing assistant for HCG, said that a year's use of high-efficiency toilets could save up to 138,000 liters of water, enough to provide drinking water for 88 five-member households.



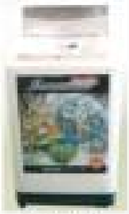
Energy saver

A device that can be plugged in any 120-electrical socket nearest the switchbox, the Analava Eco Energy Super Saver is a "built-in power factor/lightning arrester and voltage surge protector." It stabilizes current at homes and in the office.
Not only does it help extend the life of electrical appliances. It also prevents overheating from power surges, therefore limiting the possibility of the appliances catching fire. One unit is enough for a typical household. It can cut by up to 40 percent the monthly electric bill, according to its developer.



Eco bio block

The Eco Bio Block, made of volcanic stones and beneficial bacteria, is used to purify water in home aquariums, water tanks and big bodies of water such as ponds, lakes and rivers.
The good bacteria replicate nature's water purifying mechanisms by degrading harmful organic matter and ammonia, thus keeping water clean and clear. When used in home aquariums, there is no need to filter, clean and change water for a period of one to three years.
The Eco Bio Block costs from P450 to P3,000 per piece.



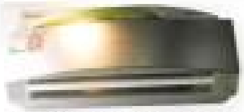
Aquabeat washing machine

Some appliances consume energy even when they are on standby or not being used but plugged in. Panasonic's Aquabeat Power Jet Wash machine has a "standby-energy-consumption-zero" technology. No energy is wasted when the unit is on standby mode. It sells for P18,998.



Organic rice

Six varieties of organic rice which come in different colors—pink, red, black, brown, purple and white—are being promoted by Go Organic Philippines. Cultivated without using chemical pesticides and fertilizers, organic rice is considered a healthy alternative to common white rice because it is high in dietary fiber, low in calories and rich in nutrients. Some varieties, like the brown and black ones, even have cancer-fighting properties. Moreover, less usage of expensive chemical farm inputs means less damage to the soil and more profit for the farmers. Depending on the variety, the price of organic rice starts at around P60 per kilogram.



Air-con with inverter technology

The Kirara series of air-conditioners makes use of an "inverter technology" that changes compressor operation speed to match a changing room temperature and adjust power output accordingly, which leads to reduced energy consumption of up to 50 percent.
It also uses the ozone-friendly R410A refrigerant. Free of harmful substances such as lead and mercury, Kirara inverter models cost about 14 percent higher (P50,490 for 1.0 HP) than conventional models. But with the savings on monthly electric bills, the payback period may be expected in about seven months. The product is manufactured by Panasonic.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico B. Alconaba

Substandard gov't housing for the poor

By Germelina Lacorte
Davao City

ALAN GODIZAR'S family noticed the smell after two months of staying in their house in Catalunan Grande, a village about 5 kilometers from Davao City's downtown area.

"We thought it was the dog," recalled Godizar's wife Lourdes. "So, we moved the doghouse somewhere else, but still the smell lingered."

Later, they opened the sewage at the back of the house and noticed that the pipes were leaking.

The one-room house, with a floor area of 98 square feet, is one of the low-cost units of South Villa Heights 2, which was awarded to the Godizars in 1994 under the Unified Home Lending Program (UHLP). They took over from its previous occupant only two years ago because the community then had no access road and is far from their workplace.

When they first arrived, the house looked like an empty matchbox. They put up jalousies on the windows, installed doors, tiled the floor and, later, laid the sewage pipes.

"There were cracks even on the ceiling," Lourdes said. "We can't even nail something to the wall without feeling that the house would crumble."

A couple of blocks away from Violeta Reyes, 60, who has stayed in the place since the late 1990s. He has refused to pay his housing loan amortization.

Suit vs developer

Reyes and 60 other homeowners sued the subdivision developer, Roberts Development Corp., in 1994 for the substandard units.

"They used dilapidated plywood," Reyes said. "The sewage pipe was leaking and the drainage was so bad. They did not follow the prescribed plan. There was no light and water. Until the developer has fixed our units, we refuse to pay."

'We can't even nail something to the wall without feeling that the house would crumble...'

Roberts disputed the claims, but an inspection by the Housing Land Use and Regulatory Board (HLURB) of the South Villa Heights 2 houses showed cracks on the walls, leaking sewage pipes and other deficiencies.

Loan payments

The homeowners won the case in 2000. Lawyer Dennis Lukas, housing and land case arbiter, ordered the developer to repair the units, build an access road and drainage system, and supply water.

But the HLURB Legal Services Group did not agree with their refusal to pay their loans.

Citing Section 23 of Presidential Decree No. 957, Lukas said that home buyers could only suspend amortization payments to the owner or subdivision developer, but not to the lending or financing institutions where they had borrowed money for the units.

Their contracts with the developer is totally separate from those with their financers, said lawyer Miguel Palma Gil, HLURB arbiter for Mindanao.

Foreclosure orders

In June 2007, Reyes was surprised to receive foreclosure orders from Balikatan Housing Finance Inc., a company created to absorb the "high delinquency" loans of the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. (NHMFC) such as those of South Villa borrowers.

Accounts are classified as "highly delinquent" if these have not been paid in the last 12 years, said lawyer Gerald Reo, head of the Balikatan corporate communications department.

The bad loans had sent NHMFC reeling in the 1990s, a condition that the country's financial experts regarded as the Philippines' precursor of the US subprime mess that recently sent banks around the globe to the brink of collapse.

The NHMFC only averted its own fall by auctioning off the loans in 2006. The sale involved 52,000 "high delinquent" loans, with an outstanding principal balance of P12 billion and total obligations of P30 billion. Among these accounts were 6,000 housing units in Davao City, involving 50 low-cost subdivisions.



PROTESTERS facing foreclosure of their homes gather at a rally against threats to sell the homes of government loan borrowers to a private entity known as Balikatan Housing Finance Inc. (BHFI).

Enter Balikatan

Deutsche Bank purchased the non-performing loans and, together with the NHMFC, put up the Balikatan on a 49-51 ownership sharing and its holding company, Balay Financing Services Inc., to carry out its restructuring program.

City officials, however, questioned the government agency's rebuff, saying it was a violation of the government's duty to provide affordable housing to its citizens.

Councilor Danilo Dayanghirang said Celso de los Angeles, founder of the controversial Legacy Group that is said to be behind the collapse of several rural banks, used to sit as board chair of the NHMFC when the government agency forfeited the rebuff.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte also appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the suspension of the foreclosure orders so that the homeowners could be given more affordable payment terms.

The NHMFC was created in 1977 to develop and provide a secondary market for home mortgages, but it was also mandated to complement the government's low-cost housing program.

Secondary mortgage

Experts believe the secondary mortgage market will "unlock" opportunities to banks to lend more to the housing sector at affordable rates by allowing the NHMFC—with borrowings from the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System and the Pag-IBIG—to buy the mortgages and securitize them to potential investors.

But in 1986, then President Corazon Aquino issued Executive Order 90, placing upon the NHMFC the management and development of the Unified Home Lending Program (UHLP) to finance housing for the poor.

Borrowing P42 billion from the SSS, GSIS and the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), more popularly known as Pag-IBIG, the NHMFC provided mortgage financing to some 220,000 homeowners from 1987 to 1996.

But the agency did very poorly in screening applicants and in collecting their dues. In the mid-1990s, it was choking in debts.



Across the NATION

Bomb kills 2 in Basilan city

Finance crisis brings ships to rest in Davao del Sur port



Activists vandalize Army 'humane' poster

Sea urchin brings dying village back to life

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon



A WORKER balances himself on a bamboo cage that villagers of Paraoir crafted for their sea urchin business.

Resilience

'Value what we have'



A FISHERMAN points to a chart that allows visitors a glimpse of the simple process and technology that go into Paraoir's sea urchin trade.

Consciousness

Charges readied vs cop who shot boss with M-16 rifle

Bataoil heads new PNP agency vs crime, rebs in North Luzon

Tayabas village weavers bring art to palm fronds



SELLING palm fronds during Palm Sunday is a source of income for the poor.

SMART

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A plus METRO
Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

Finally, a land they can call their own in Taytay

161 families of settlers benefit from housing plan

By Kenneth Maclsbel

A TOTAL OF 161 FAMILIES INformally settled in Barangay San Isidro in Taytay, Rizal, are now the new owners of the land they occupy.

The provincial government of Rizal has awarded lot certificates to the families under the Bagong Samahan ng Purok 6 Homeowners Association in Dela Rosa, San Isidro, Taytay.

Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares III said in a statement yesterday that through their Housing and Resettlement Division, they have convinced the landowner, Dr. Adolfo Pinuyan, to sell the 8,500-square-meter property to the informal settlers occupying the area.

He said Pinuyan agreed to sell the land at P9.5 million, or about P1,200 per square meter, through a direct buying scheme that is payable within five years.

The informal settlers—organized under Purok 6—have already paid P947,700 representing the 10 percent down payment for the property and will amortize the rest of the land cost in the coming years.

According to Ynares, negotiating land sales like these form part of the provincial government's program to be able to provide low-cost housing to informal settlers in their jurisdiction and to make them responsible for owners by giving them affordable payment schemes.

In November last year, 104 family-beneficiaries were also made new owners of a property they used to occupy illegally in Barangay Sta. Cruz, Antipolo City.

The previous 104 families awarded land in Antipolo were informal settlers whose houses were demolished in 1999 to give way to the construction of a private company compound in the city.

The Rizal provincial government also interceded in talks to convince the owner of the land where the families settled to sell the property to the 104 families, who eventually organized themselves as the Pinagpala Neighborhood Association.

The 4,977 sq.m. lot was sold to the 104 beneficiaries at P10 million. A downpayment of P1 million was made by the association and will amortize the land within five years without interest.

Voting centers for elderly, PWDs sought

By Marlon Ramos

THE MARIKINA CITY COUNCIL HAS ENACTED a resolution asking the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to set up special voting precincts for the elderly and persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the city.

In passing Resolution 2009-033, the city council said they received complaints from senior citizens and PWDs who failed to vote after having difficulties going to their precincts.

"Special precincts should be located at the ground floor of polling places, so as not to add to the physical difficulties of the elderly," the resolution read.

The resolution, introduced by Councilor Jojo Rosty Bisay, also cited the country's electoral laws which allow PWDs to be accompanied by a relative, a person they trust or any member of the board of election inspectors to help them in filling up their ballots.

"This courtesy should be extended to senior citizens," the city council argued.

"Citizens should not be deprived of their right to vote, simply because of their physical condition," Bisay said in a statement.

"Given the circumstances and the special needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities, we believe we have to make special arrangements so they will not be unduly deprived of their right to vote," he added.

"We are optimistic that the Comelec will open these precincts in time for the 2010 elections," Councilor Bisay said.



BIRTHDAY MARKS
Militants hold a rally in Plaza Miranda to mark in their own way today's observance of the 62nd birthday of President Macapagal-Arroyo. They said that in the nine years of the Arroyo regime the living condition of the poor had become worse.



Simple, unassuming road heroes cited

4 men receive 'Bayani ng Kalsada' award from Goodyear and get rewards for doing little, spontaneous acts of kindness on the road

By Allison W. Lopez



DAVE Morin (left), Goodyear Philippines managing director, offers a toast to the 2009 Bayani ng Kalsada winners (from Morin's left) Eduardo Hagad, Juan Manalili, Jose San Jose and Rogelio Bolinas.

Enough reward

Run-of-the-mill

Money returned

Examples to emulate

MetroBriefs

Gifts for top grads

More QC schools

Globe and TM customers in Baguio, Pampanga, Bicol, Cebu and Davao experience Globe's network strength













Marikina house watch scheme

Belmonte: I'll support San Diego

Family of slain solon lauds move to charge ex-Abra gov



FLORA FILIPINA 2009 EXPO

He'll still play role of Jesus

No sign of N. Korean launch amid high winds



JAPAN deploys PAC-3 land-to-air missiles to counter the North Korea rocket threat.

[illegible]

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
GLOBAL Pinoy
SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2009

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

2 CASE STUDIES

Our women, their slaves

By Susan V. Ople
Contributor

ADAM SMITH, economist, had this theory about an invisible hand. A person out to promote his self-interest, Smith said, tends also to promote the good of his community.



COMING HOME FROM HELL



SERIOUS TALK

'Our inability to fight back emboldens human traffickers to penetrate our boarders and prey on the dreams of the Filipino women for a better life for their families'

The story of Alice

From Damascus to hell

The story of Sandy

Slapped around

A lopsided law

Legal vow of silence

Alone at the end of the day

Poverty bears woman's face

663,000 more Americans lose jobs in March

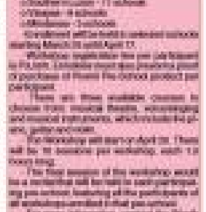


BERLUSCONI talking on the phone, and missing a welcome from Germany's Merkel.

Yet another faux pas: Berlusconi, on phone, misses Nato group photo

Number of bankruptcies jumped 38 percent compared with 2008

Christian Bautista Shares the Thrust of Promil Pre-School i-Shine Workshop







Kids from Manuel L. Quezon (MLQ) Elementary School pose with their Jollibee Hug and Share Dolls and officials of Jollibee and Jollibee Franchisees Association. (4TH from Left- Rudy Ang , 2007 Chair, Jollibee Franchisees Association; 5th from Left- Gold Tantoco, Jollibee Vice President for Marketing; 6th from left- Cris Co, 2009 Chairman, Jollibee Franchisees Association; Far right- George De Guzman, 2008 Chair, Jollibee Franchisees Association) The MLQ Kids, who are beneficiaries of Jollibee Foundation's Busog Lusog Talino Program, are among the eight foundations who received P10 million in donations culled from the sales of Hug and Share Dolls, a special 30th anniversary novelty offering of Jollibee last year.

The WORLD

14 dead at US immigration center rampage

BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK—A GUNMAN BARRICADED the back door of a community center with his car and then opened fire on a room full of immigrants taking a citizenship class on Friday, killing 13 people before apparently committing suicide, officials said.

[illegible]

AP



KARZAI

Karzai orders review of new antiwomen law

KABUL—AFGHAN PRESIDENT HAMID Karzai on Saturday rejected Western criticism that a new law imposes Taliban-style restrictions on women but said it would be reviewed and anything of concern would be corrected.

[illegible]

AFP



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ 'Filipino Flash' feels fit /A26

Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

■ Magic zap Cavs; Lakers triumph /A27







GERAN Puy (left) and the Australian team will get added firepower in their next game against Kelly Williams and the RP squad.

Wade, Daniels beef up Aussies

By Cedelf P. Tupas

[illegible]



Manny to play chin music concerto—Roach

Kinks in Manny's armor?

Hatton 'easy to hit'

Will MVP run for President?

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

'Filipino Flash' feels fit

It'll be over once my punches land, says Donaire



DONAIRE: I want to impose my own style.

Sportswatch

Xavier hosts Coach E classes

Ateneo hosts judo clinic





Alessandra first Florida karting female champ

Tiu claims second drag racing triumph



TIU

Djokovic boots out Federer



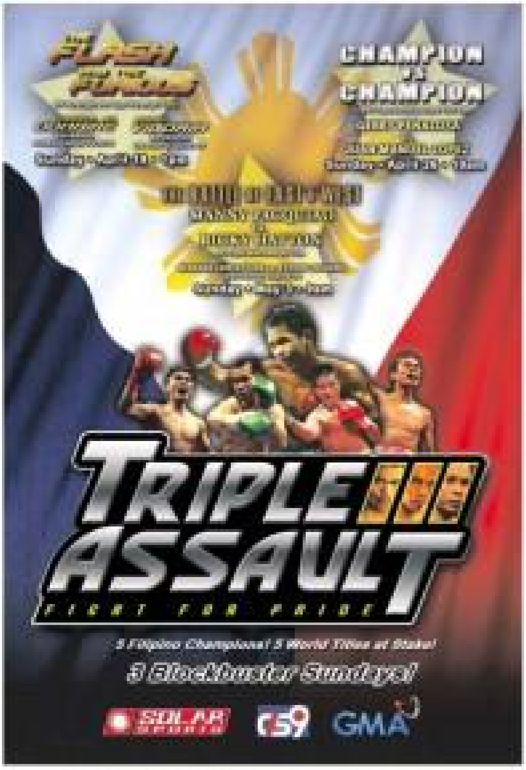
Magic zap Cavs; Lakers triumph

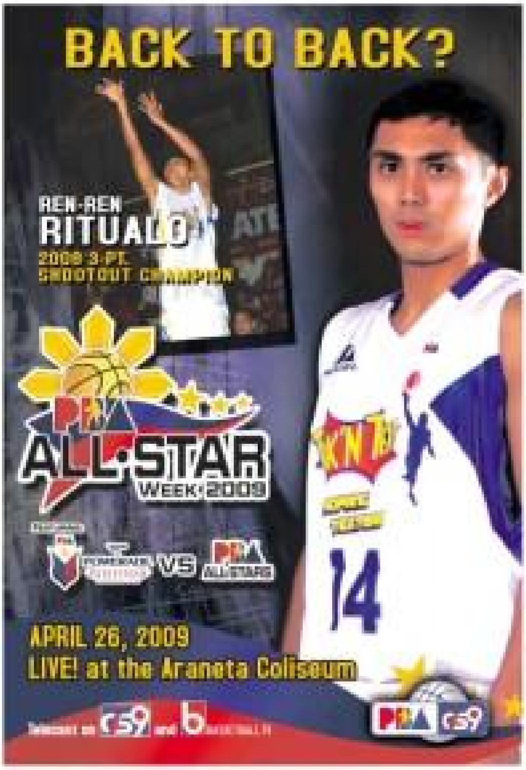
Wade, Daniels . . .



Button takes Malaysian pole

Sunday SPORTS





NCAA tells new schools: Join other events

League eyes Olympic sports

By Jasmine W. Payo



DE JESUS

RP Seniors tees off May 6



CO-LEADER Kristy McPherson watches her drive on a ... day in the Kraft Nabisco Championship.

Bicol bets top Wake Park tilt

Car show gets going

RP pug eyes WBC title

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Sunday Biz

IN THIS ISSUE



Exec bids big boys' club adieu



FRANCISCO H. Licuanan III

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

[illegible]

Commodities traders

[illegible]

Bearing the brunt

[illegible]



GOINGS-ON

Asia United Bank expands network

Urban Institute sets seminar

JWT's Ferrer to judge at Cannes Festival

Headstrong named best BPO company



It's the network

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell



"In hard times, we can't afford to retreat into a shell"

Exec bids big boys' club adieu

Financial troubles

Halo-halo business still refreshes after 73 years



CHICCO serves coffee with Internet connection on the side

Brewing hot coffee is couple's cup of tea

By [illegible]
Inquirer Mindanao

[illegible]

Pagsanjan tour includes stop at Aling Taleng's

By [illegible]
Inquirer Southern Luzon

[illegible]

Grandmother

[illegible]

No big changes

[illegible]



ALING TALENG'S Halo-halo is one sweet way to beat the summer heat.



THIS HUMBLE outlet has been quietly contributing to the Pagsanjan economy.

[illegible]

"Lutong-bahay"

[illegible]

HYUNDAI IS LOOKING AFTER YOU

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Have a safe trip



Sunday LifeStyle Travel

Summer Escape Guide

Laguna is perfect for Visita Iglesia



Take the loop for a pilgrimage to the province's magnificent Baroque churches–and interesting stopovers

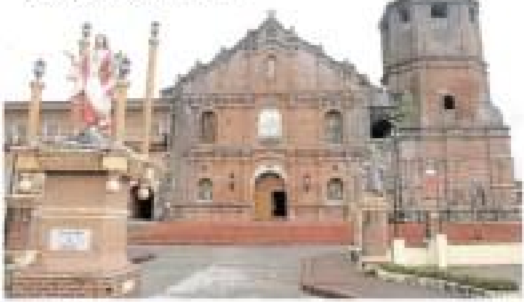
By Rowena C. Burgos

THE VISITA IGLESIA IS A traditional Filipino custom of visiting seven churches on Holy Thursday. Such custom is said to originate from the early Christian practice of visiting the seven great basilicas in Rome.

LAGUNA/C3



ST. GREGORY the Great Parish church in Majayjay was built in 1711. Antique relief statues brought by the Spaniards are preserved in this church. The belfry has four small bells and one big bell, probably the oldest in the country.



THE 400-YEAR-OLD St. John the Baptist church in Liliw was initially made of wood. It was reconstructed with adobe and bricks in 1646. Destroyed by an earthquake in 1880, it was restored in 1885.

Laguna is perfect for Visita Iglesia

From page C1

Run the trail of Baroque churches this Lent and bask in an era of Old-World architecture.

"Visiting heritage churches during Holy Week gives us a glimpse of Philippine culture while we pray," says Ms. Corazon Belleza of the Pila Historical Society Foundation Inc.

One popular route is the Laguna de Bay Loop where some of the best heritage churches are located.

This is a straightforward route; simply follow the National Highway along the towns of Laguna de Bay. "Start either in Laguna via the South Luzon Expressway or in Rizal if you go through the Antipolo side," Belleza says.

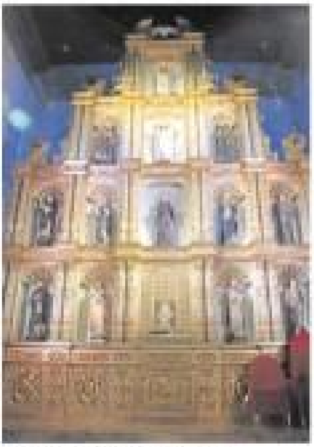
If one does not have a private vehicle, one can board jeepneys that pass from one town to another.

Centuries-old edifices

We were able to visit eight of Laguna's centuries-old stone monuments such as the Diocesan Shrine of St. Anthony de Padua in Pila, Diocesan Shrine of St. Peter of Alcantara, Pakil; St. James the Apostle church, Paete; Our Lady of Guadalupe church, Pagsanjan; St. John the Baptist church, Liliw; St. Gregory the Great Parish church, Majayjay; St. Mary Magdalene church, Magdalena; and St. Bartholomew Parish church, Nagcarlan.

In between church visits, have snacks or meals at ESR Cafe (known for its pancit and lomi) and Plaza Delights (baked goodies) near St. Anthony de Padua church in Pila.

LAGUNA, C4

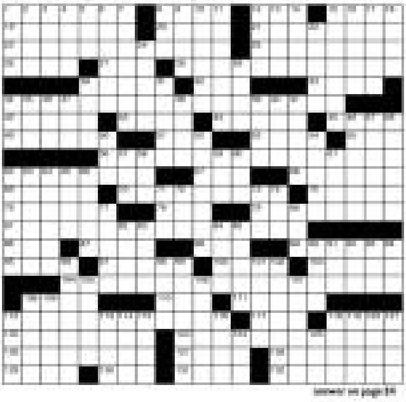


THE RETABLO of St. John the Baptist church in Liliw

Sunday Crossword

PREMIER CROSSWORD / By Frank A. Longo

COLOR-COORDINATED



answer on page B1

Summer classes for kids, teens

JOHN ROBERT Powers is offering summer classes for kids, teens, new graduates (and also adults). Courses offered are personality development, acting, modeling, hosting, etiquette, grooming, communication skills, English proficiency and executive programs. Enroll now and finish before regular school classes begin.

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Since few and get the lifetime benefits of the JRP workshop.

Call 892-5511 (Makati) or 0917-3260537 and 927-8465 (Ortigas Ctr). Visit www.johnrobertpowers.com.

Family treats at the mall

THIS APRIL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA Mall hosts delightful treats for the family.

Easter Treasure Hunt has a fresh spin with the diverse Secret Garden.

There are treasured finds from the mall's participating stores when you join in the fun at the Grand Atrium on April 12, 1:30-5 p.m. Register for the Easter Treasure Hunt at the Shangri-La Plaza Administration Office, Level 5. The first 500 registrants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration fee is P300.

Fun and fashion come together on April 12-19 at Shang's Kids Zone Sale.

There are discounts of up to 75 percent on select apparel, accessories, toys and items from participating brands Big & Small, Crossings Department Store, [illegible], Gingersnaps, Gymboree, Kids of Baya, Kindergirl, La Compagnie des Petits, Play & Music, [illegible], Kids Nation, [illegible], Moty's Space, [illegible], Orange Juice, OshKosh B'Gosh, Pink Box, PJ's Sleepwear, Spin, Rustan's Department Store, [illegible], Ziggies Den and Tempo Montessori.

On April 17-19 is the Shang Kids' Fair. Grand Atrium will be transformed into a playground complete with rides, children's shows, booths, fashion show and performances from Tempo Montessori. Call 633-7851.

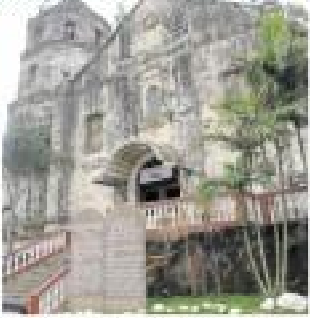




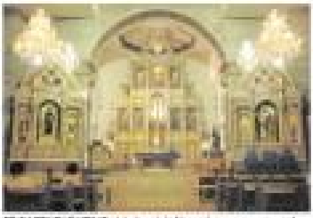
FOUNDED in 1687, the original Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe church in Pagsanjan was made of bamboo and nipa.



ST. PETER of Alcantara church in Pakil was completed in 1767. In 1788, the Virgin of Turumba was enshrined in this church.



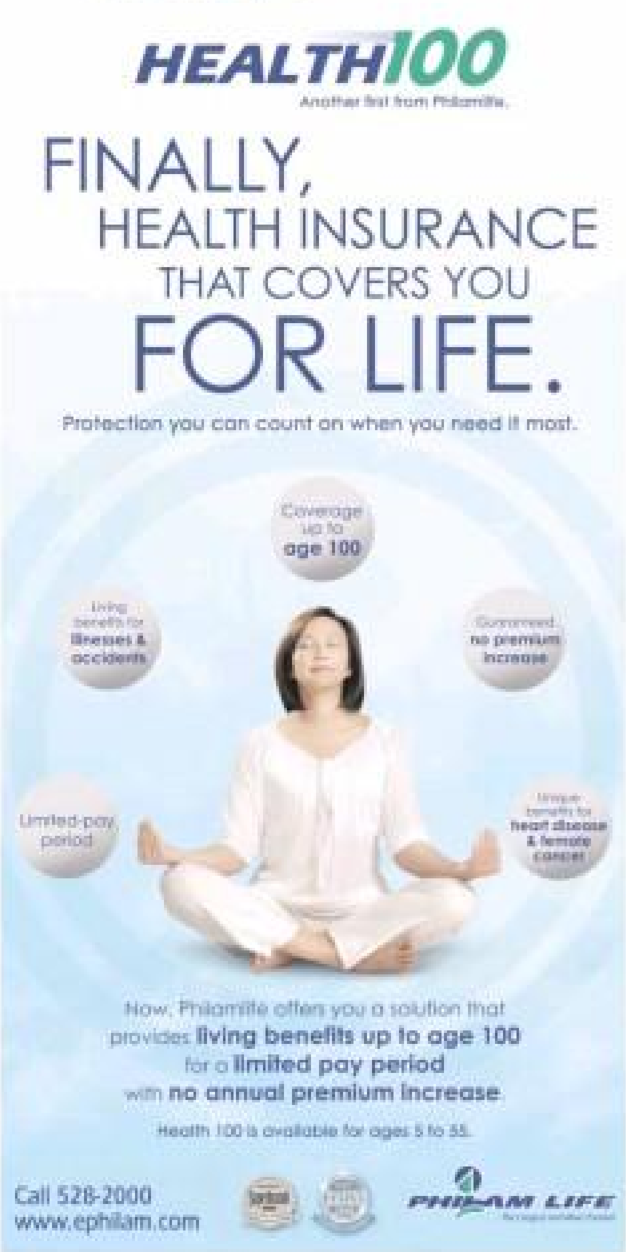
ST. MARY Magdalene church was built in 1851-1871. It's located at the Magdalena plaza, where the Aranas Lake Memorial Elementary School and municipal building can also be found.



ST. BARTHOLOMEW Parish church in Nagcarlan was constructed of light materials in 1583. It was then replaced with brick and stone in 1752.



ST. ANTHONY de Padua church in Pila and its convent were completed in 1618. Damaged by an earthquake in 1880, it was rebuilt at the beginning of the 19th century.



Laguna is perfect for Visita Iglesia

From page C4

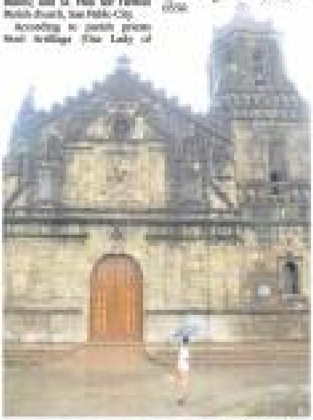
Besides Cafeteria [illegible] (the Holy Hour) near St. Peter of Alcantara church in Pakil; [illegible] Restaurant, [illegible], Calle Arco, [illegible] Japanese Restaurant in Pagsanjan; Chef [illegible] and [illegible] Coffee Shop [illegible] for [illegible], pasta, fish, meat dishes and desserts in Liliw.

Other magnificent churches worth visiting in Laguna, according to its tourism office, are Our Lady of Nativity Parish church in Pangil; Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish church, Sta. Rosa City; St. Polycarp Parish church, Cabuyao; St. John the Baptist Catholic church, Calamba City; Immaculate Concepcion Parish church, Los Baños; and St. Paul the Hermit Parish church, San Pablo City.

According to parish priests [illegible] (Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Pagsanjan) and [illegible] (St. John the Baptist Church in Liliw), most of these colonial-era churches have undergone [illegible] renovations, or the construction of new structures as the old ones crumbled due to natural and man-made calamities.

"Lovers of Philippine ecclesiastical architecture will truly have an inspiring spiritual experience in Laguna," [illegible] says. "Start your journey early so you can complete your Visita Iglesia and see the other attractions of the province."

For those who want to have a day tour of the churches in Laguna, call [illegible], tourism officer designate, at (049)[illegible].





THE RELIGIOUS images of St. James the Apostle church in Paete were carved and/or painted by its residents. Its murals were done by Jose Dans in the 19th century. Although the church has been recently renovated, the designs remain the same.

MA. CORAZON [illegible] of the Pila Historical Society Foundation Inc. at St. Peter of Alcantara church in Pakil

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships



'Raise children, not kids'

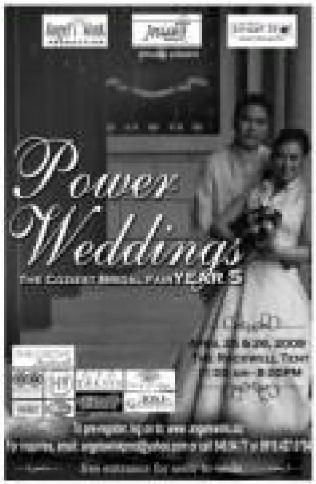
Another gem from my 97-year-old grandma: 'When parenting becomes obsolete, develop mutual friendship with your children'

Overflowing

Assignment









'Raise children, not kids'



MARCIAL and Josey with five of their children



MARCIAL and Josey with the complete family, children in Canada, [illegible]

From page D1

sometimes their own mistakes."

Children also must understand that they are a part of your life, but not your life. You do what you can for them but parents are not just commodities to serve their children—they are people, too.

"If I had known I would have had so many children, I would have written down all my answers to the amazing questions they ask," says Nana. "There are so many, and you can't ignore them. When they would ask me questions, I would just open my mouth and ask God to give me the answer."

Being a mother is a great learning experience, and each child is totally different and has to be allowed to mature naturally. Nana also believes it's better to keep objects of importance out of a child's reach, instead of putting them and telling them constantly not to touch this and that.

"You must make the house for the children. It's not worth watching them all the time. You just have to guide them as they learn their own lessons."

Teamwork

Aside from much love and total support, the most important things a parent can give a child are education and opportunities to travel and see the world. The more a child learns to open his or her mind, the more a child will be able to see. Making a compromise with children is also essential, and Nana has always tried to never embarrass or belittle them.

It is also important that the parents work as a team. She remembers, "My husband and I made agreements to each other about raising our children, as you cannot tell someone how to raise his child. I think it's best to have one person in charge of discipline so there are no contradictions."

There is nothing more confusing to a child, she says, than one parent saying "absolutely not" and the other saying, "I don't see why not."

Although it's a normal instinct to want to make your child's wishes come true, Nana shares a lesson she learned when she promised one of her children they would see snow. They ended up at the top of a mountain, wearing inadequate clothing and with teeth chattering!

Never make a promise to a child unless you intend to keep it, she now cautions. And tell the children that sometimes it's impossible to keep a promise, when the consequences of doing so might be unsafe or too risky.

Not baby goats

We must respect our children as we respect any relationship in our life, and this starts with simply how we refer to our offspring. My grandmother considers herself a one-woman campaign against calling children "kids" because a "kid" by definition is actually a baby goat.

"Calling a child a 'kid' implies that their mothers, who have been given the most precious job of all, are female nanny goats," says Nana. It is disrespectful to both the animals and humans; every time [illegible] someone who is a parent, Nana tells them to make sure they have children and not kids.

As a human being, however, she says she has great respect for the goat, for it was a nanny goat that supplied the milk that nourished her in her infancy and childhood 87 years ago.

She states with great conviction, "It's the next best milk for children, if human mother's milk is not available."

My grandmother refers to her children as "her life's work," and has always felt that mothering is universal. A child needs a mother but it does not have to be a birth mother.

"Females of all species have mothering instincts and free will—both necessary tools to survival. All you need besides this is love, tolerance and patience."

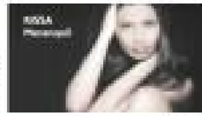
Although her own family now



JESSIE and Marcial's family with many additions. [illegible]

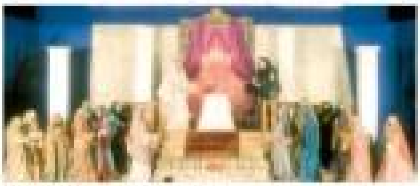


Theater and modeling workshop



The City of Light Sparkles for Spiral's Third Year





'Siete Palabras' to be delivered at Santo Domingo on Good Friday

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Darang

[illegible]

Recamadero

[illegible]

'Hapag' the play

[illegible]

Lenten talks

[illegible]

Enthronement

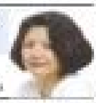
[illegible]

Top Dominicans to deliver Seven Last Words

[illegible]

Married woman smitten with old beau

EMILY'S POST



Emily A. Marcelo

[illegible]

Motherhood becomes her

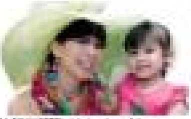
[illegible]



[illegible]



Summer workshops and height booster for kids



TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Now that she's taking a vitamin to make her grow tall, my daughter Athena should easily eclipse and dwarf me

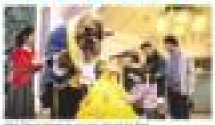


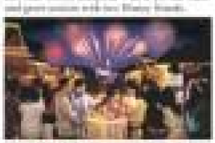


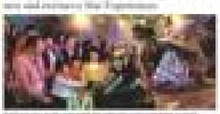
Let Your Child Be A Star Graduate!



















CELEBRATING Linggo ng Wika at Integrow Children's Activity Center



FAB PLAYERS Jimmy Alapag of the Talk 'n' Text Tropang Texters, San Miguel Beermen's Lordy Tugade and Christian Calaguio, Adidas Aure' Tony dela Cruz and basketball aficionado Charlie Dy, along with the "Gatas Buddy" kids Mica dela Cruz, Sharleen San Pedro, Niels Agcao and Jamie Jumalo show their support for the children's multivitamin brand Growee.



ACTRESS Angela de Leon with daughters Lulu and Nicole

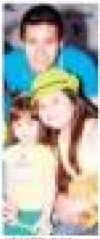


FISH AND ESSEN Hospital pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Rabino, Growee brand manager Sharmela Arceo and pediatrician Dr. Ayo Miguel



KIT AND FERNANDO Zobel with daughter Sylvia

Summer workshops and height booster for kids



HEARTTHROB Enchong Dee with Athena and Amelia Valdes

From page F1

all programmed to start after our Holy Week vacation in Amarela Resort in Bohol. So this week, I'm featuring all kids' choices for the summer.

The fun starts at Rustan's Makati, which recently held a little kiddie fashion show featuring adorable and bright outfits from participating brands, such as Ralph Lauren Kids, Gingersnaps, Barbie, Sugarpop and others.

Many brand owners even joined in the fun, including Mandy Santos for Tunz Tots, Mindy Weber-Tantoco for Kiddie, Katrina and Bong Gonzales for Spin, Bianca Limjoco for Cosm, King and Michelle Montecillo for Playgear, and Aileen and Elina Ruiz Chan for Orchestra.

I had so much fun hosting the energetic event, with the children displaying their excitement as they modeled on the runway. Even more enthusiastic were the proud parents who came to root for their kids, including my husband Dennis and I, as we cheered on our little Athena. She's quite different from her mommy, as she walked down the ramp covering her face!

The different collections featured the season's must-have pieces—cool and breezy shorts, printed tees, bright colored skirts and charming dresses. Swimwear, on the other hand, included board shorts and adorable bikinis.

Completing the day's celebration were food booths filled with kiddie favorites like Krispy Kreme, Cheddar Chocolate Drink and several snack stations from Hungry Sykes. They all deserved the sugar overload since all of them gamely modeled all afternoon.

On April 18, another adorable fashion show will be held in Rustan's Shangri-La Mall at 5 p.m. Catch the latest summer collections so your fashionable little one will look great on the beach.



INTEGROW parade with headmaster Gigi Garcia-Villarama and teachers and students



TWEETIE de Leon Quiroke with son Alfonso



MARTA Aranda with Mary Ann Ojeda



JUSTINA Ezcrets and Alexa Tantoco for Kiddie



ZOE WITH MOM Mindy Weber-Tantoco



IMAGE consultant and beauty queen Abbygale Arenas de Leon and son Iejoh



LITTLE chefs of Integrow at the Del Monte Kitchen in Bonifacio High Street

Growee

Another recent kid event was the media launch of Growee Tangkad Tibay multivitamins for kids. Held at the Fun Ranch in Tiendesitas, the fun-filled affair was quite educational, especially for me, as I had so many questions about the growth, strength and overall health of my kids.

Like all mothers, I want my children to grow tall, strong and healthy. The newest growth multivitamin brand for babies and children up to 12 years old, Growee is packed with Chlorella Growth Factor with Vitamin D and other essential factors to help promote strength and boost height.

The youngest stars from the hit kiddie gag show "Goin' Bulilit," performed, after which renowned pediatrician of PGH and Asian Hospital, Dr. Benjamin Rabino, discussed the advantages of Chlorella and Vitamin D, both found in these new multivitamins from Unilab.

Sharmela Arceo, the brand manager of Growee, told me that Athena should easily eclipse Dennis' and my height, now that she is on Growee. I would see this as I enrolled her during her graduation rites at Integrow, a preschool and a full service, child-rearing center.

Integrow Children's Activity Center is a progressive school equipped with a curriculum designed to prepare the children for their entry to the "big school." For Athena, that will be Assumption College, the fourth generation of my family to enter. With the Integrow basic training that is adjusted to the individual child's age and readiness to learn, I'm sure Athena will take to her new school schedule easily.

For the summer, Integrow has a line-up of activities for kids and teens. There is Summer Station, composed of arts and crafts, singing and dancing, and playtime; Li'l Chef, which teaches the basics of food preparation; Li'l Mariner, an art workshop with Rami Hamburg; Li'l Ninja, a dance class; and Kiddie Chefs-in-Training, a basic culinary course at the Del Monte Test Kitchen.

For more information, call Integrow at 8562291 or visit them at 2/F, Bldg. 2, Bonifacio High Street, Taguig City.

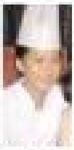
Enchanted Kingdom

What would summer be without a visit to Enchanted Kingdom? The country's first and only world-class theme park located in Santa Rosa, Laguna, has a well-rounded series of events infused with their own brand of magic all summer long.

EK's president, Mario Mamon, invited me for a storytelling session to 40 less fortunate kids as part of the outreach program. It will be so joyful to watch these kids enjoy all of EK's park rides and attractions, as well as their theater shows, musicals and summer bonanza.

Enchanted is synonymous with summer: all weekends will have live bands and celebrity moonwalking. At their 4D Discovery Theater, an action-packed movie adventure, "Journey to the Center of the Earth," is showing. It is based on the Jules Verne classic and will have viewers on the edge of their seats. And on May 16, temperatures turn sizzling when Jaejoo Castillo, Manila's Prince of Asian Garb, presents his fashion collection.

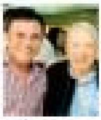
EK is open Monday to Friday, 3-9 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., with fireworks displays at 8 p.m. until June 7. For more information, visit www.enchanted-kingdom.com.ph or call 8300111.



AUBERGINE Restaurant chef Nicolle Cruz



ROSAN Cruz



BIENVENIDO Tantoco Jr. with father Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr.

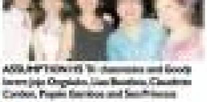
Goody

As I end this summer kiddie-centric article, I would also like to thank the people from Goody, the hairbrush company. I recently found out that they've been around since 1907, over a century ago! No wonder I can remember brushing my hair with a Goody brush since I was Athena's age!

Goody is launching a brand new look, and Goody Philippines president and GM, James Yu, told me that they are adding a charity angle to their products. We all had a great dinner at Aubergine Restaurant at the Fort. I might digress at this point and just note that one of the chefs in this great restaurant is Nicolle Cruz, daughter of my Assumption classmate Carmelita Peyral Cruz. Anyway, the reason (as if any were needed) for our Goody dinner was their donation to our Assumption HS '81 Batch Foundation and their appointing me the Total Goody Woman for 2009.

So now whenever I'm having a good time, I have to say, "Oh, Goody!"

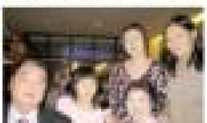
E-mail tessytantoco@inquirer.com.ph



ASSUMPTION HS '81 classmates and Goody lovers Jojo Ongpauco, Lisa Buenviaje, Claudette Caridon, Pepito Enriquez and Sari Princess



GOODY DONATION FROM J.S. Company president James Yan Sy, Sr. Sales Manager Asia Pacific May Hoang, Total Goody Woman Sen Princess, International Marketing Manager Atlantic Maresly Molini and brand manager Cathy Bernardino



GOODY Philippines CEO James Tan Sy, Jocyl Sy, interior designer Rosario Coronel, Rolly Sy and James Sy

House of visible mysteries

From page E4

[illegible]



"VISITATION of Mary to Elizabeth"



RELIQUARY: [illegible]

Passion of Christ

[illegible]

Icon Room

[illegible]

Ivory Room

[illegible]

Understanding faith

[illegible]

LENTEN WEEKEND DESTINATION

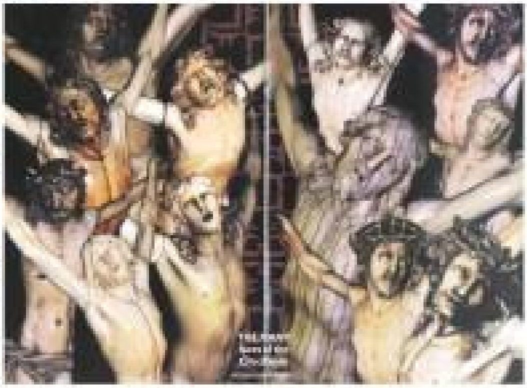


House of visible mysteries

By Constantino C. Tejero

AN UNLIKELY APPARITION ON University Avenue in Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City is the PJ Lhuillier Museum, which appears nondescript yet holds sacred treasures.

The structure looks like a small house: Antillean house of wood, stone and wrought iron ensconced on a green, green lawn and half-hidden by the verdure of bushes and trees.



This is a concept museum housing some 3,000 pieces, nearly 100 of these paintings—part of Ambassador to Italy Philippe J. Lhuillier's collection he started in the 1960s.

In building it, Lhuillier says he was guided by "the conviction that Church art is a vital social force that extends beyond the art world and into the broader culture."

It was first intended for storage of his accumulation of 40 years, including religious prints and paintings, icons, ivory pieces, metalworks, woodcarvings, polychrome statues, sacred vessels, reliquaries, liturgical vestments.

The exhibition is divided into three themes: the life of Jesus, Mariology and the saints. It is curated by Joseph Bosca, humanities professor at San Beda College-Alabang and also curator of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas and San Beda-Alabang Museums.

"Everything here is museum standard," says Bosca. "We're concerned as much as the lighting. It doesn't emit heat. And the temperature is controlled."

Restoration and conservation are supervised by Malou Reyes, professor of conservation in University of Sto. Tomas and also conservator of the San Agustin and Lopez Museums.



DEPOSITION from the Cross

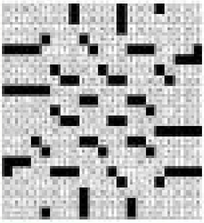
Mary and Joseph

The only contemporary artwork here is Bernie Robles' giant crucifix of molded concrete and plaster with stainless steel tubes extending across the lawn and looping to form an archway to the door.

An antique bronze church bell from the 1800s is also installed on the lawn, while

TURN TO F2

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Sunday LifeStyle

Stylish Strokes of Summer

Make way for the sizzling summer season with Marks & Spencer. Showcasing the latest looks for men and women combined with chic summer essentials, M&S sets the run down of the key looks for this season.

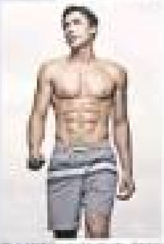
Marks & Spencer boasts of a wide range of swimwear perfect for taking on any travel destination for summer. Whether it's a bold-striped one-piece swimsuit or a sexy two-piece halter bikini, M&S has got the swimwear to match your every summer mood.

For body conscious women, the Bodyshaper swimsuit is perfect. Modern and stylish, this swimsuit shapes and smoothes your figure. You can also choose a longer length swimsuit which is underwired for a flattering, supported shape.

Men on the other hand go minimalist for summer geared only with Blue Harbour swim shorts to show off a toned body. A great value pair of shorts offering a secure fit, while multiple pockets come in handy for that relaxing walk on the beach.













Hot Summer Picks

Chic, cool and comfortable are key traits for hot weather wardrobe and Marks & Spencer's great summer selection makes it all easy for you.

Enjoy the cool summer breeze and lounge in the sun with a tulip print top from Limited Collection. Paired with a bright colored cutwork tunic or a beaded top, khaki or denim shorts can go from beach to lounge and vice versa.

For summer days in the city, you can't go wrong with linen tops and trousers. For women, glam it up with accessories and you're ready to go from the office to a fun, summer night out with friends. For men, put on a North coast linen shirt and match it with a pair of trekking shorts for the ultimate chill and relaxed look. Blue Harbour rugby shirts and checkered prints brighten up casual cargos.















Summer Essentials

Travel essentials are not to be left out for any jet setter. For the beach bound, make sure to pack a bottle of Marks & Spencer's new Sun Formula line. The new Sun Formula line is expertly formulated by Australian suncare specialists. Hypoallergenic and fragrance free to minimize risk of allergies, protect your sensitive skin with SPF 30 Sensitive Moisturising Sun Spray. Also available are SPF 25 Moisturising Sun spray or lotion and SPF 30 Revival Face Anti-ageing sun solution. Sunglasses for men and women complete a cool and chic beach ensemble as you soak up the sun.

Colorful totes in monochrome and floral designs carry the basics for a vacation, while flip flops are essential for those long walks at the beach.

Women can freshen up in the hot weather with new scents Sheer Blush and Azure Breeze. Beaded necklaces also complement a summer getaway, taking any fashionista from a day at the beach to an all night party.

Giving you all that you will need for this summer, Marks & Spencer assures you with another season of sensible style.



Sunglasses, P795, P1050, P1750



Canvas Shopper, P[illegible]



Sun Formula
SPF 25 Moisturising Sun Spray, P[illegible]
SPF 30 Sensitive Moisturising Sun Spray, P[illegible]
SPF 25 Moisturising Sun Lotion, P[illegible]
SPF 30 Revival Face Anti-ageing Sun Lotion, P[illegible]



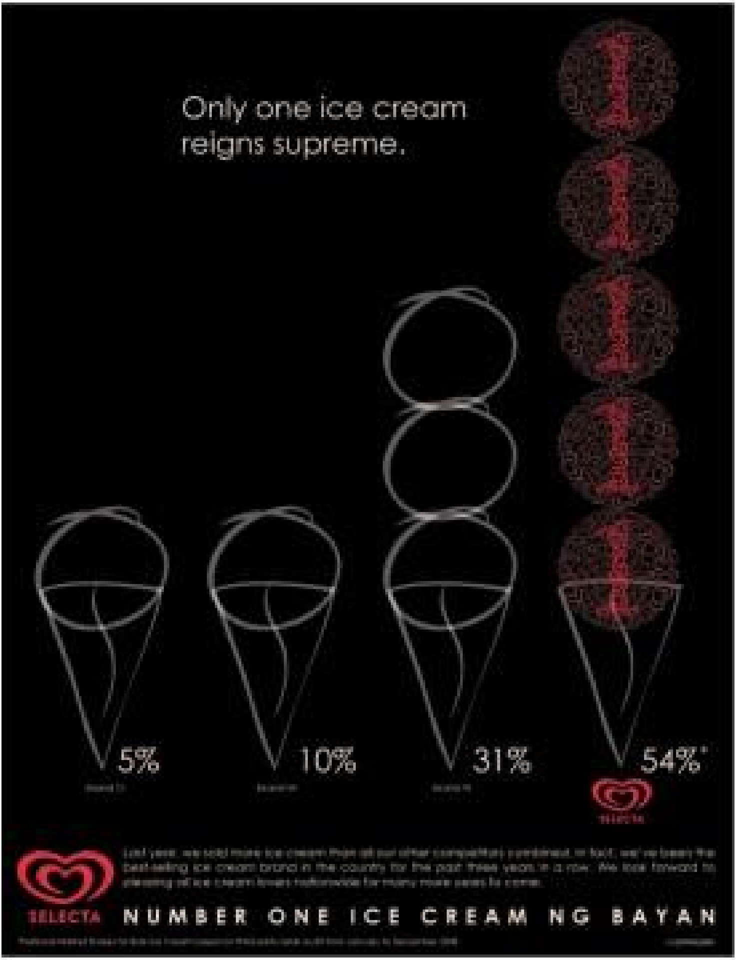
Sheer Blush, P1200
Azure Breeze, P1200



Blue Harbour Plain Flip Flops, P[illegible]
Blue Harbour Print Flip Flops, P[illegible]



Necklaces, P[illegible] each


Only one ice cream reigns supreme.
5%
10%
31%
54%*
SELECTA
NUMBER ONE ICE CREAM NG BAYAN

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT



A chat with 'Super' girl

By the Entertainment staff

LIKE MANY KIDS OF HER GENERATION, Charice Pempengco loves to describe things in exaggerated terms.

Recalling, for instance, her fateful encounters with Oprah Winfrey and Muhammad Ali in the course of a dizzying turn of events at the world's favorite [illegible] stages, Pempengco peppered her talk with "super."

From Winfrey, she said she has learned the "super-super-duper" attitude of never losing hope in the face of adversity.

"Super-fancy" is how she illustrated details of her guest performance at a star-studded tribute show for Ali.

Asked to reflect on her fast-rising climb to fame, she started her answer with, "Super-[illegible] po [illegible] ang [illegible]..."

But of course all of these are true. And if things stay on course, it wouldn't be a surprise if, a few years from now, Filipinos would refer to Pempengco as the country's next "superstar."

Arriving in Manila last week from Hollywood where she finished a five-day shoot for her first movie, Pempengco regaled us with sto-

CHAT B4

CHARICE PEMPENGCO

Medical drama 'ER' says goodbye after 15 years

NEW YORK—NBC'S "ER" IS ENDING MUCH LIKE IT BEGAN, with a mini-symphony of life and death. The medical drama, which earned a record 122 Emmy Award nominations during its 15-year life, [illegible] AP

Did You Know...

Junior star gets million-peso gift

From page [illegible]

[illegible]

Pugnacious Annabelle times two

[illegible]

Missing in action

[illegible]

Gretchen's at it again

[illegible]

Top of the tabloids

[illegible]

Ouch!

[illegible]

Must you say it?

[illegible]

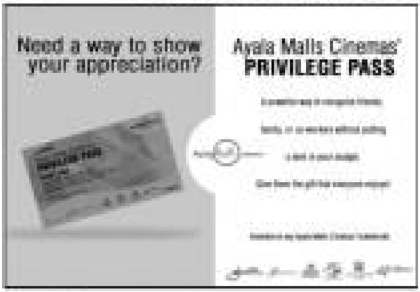
Again, again

[illegible]

Rufa Mae now

[illegible]


At the Cinemas
Ayala Malls Cinemas
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 1
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET!MARKET!
TRINOMA
LIVE VIA SATELLITE
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
AYALA CENTER CEBU
At the Malls
GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARKET! MARKET!
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
TRINOMA
ONSTAGE


Need a way to show your appreciation?
Ayala Malls Cinemas' PRIVILEGE PASS


THX Certified Auditoriums
THX

A chat…

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FAST & FURIOUS 4

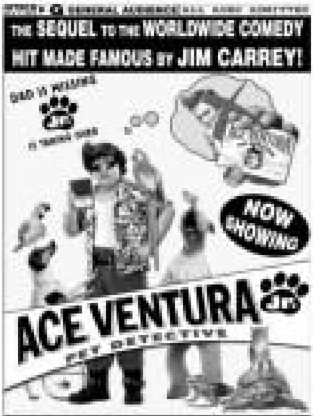

FAST & FURIOUS 4 CARNIVAL WEEKEND
APRIL 4-5, 2009
Get a chance to WIN special gift items:
• Fast & Furious 4 T-Shirts
• Fast & Furious 4 Seatbelt pads
• Fast & Furious 4 caps
• Fast & Furious 1, 2, 3 DVDs
• Timezone Game passes
PLUS! Present four (4) Fast & Furious 4 movie tickets and avail the TIMEZONE Fast & Furious Arcade game from 1-5 pm only.
glorietta


VIN DIESEL PAUL WALKER
MICHELLE RODRIGUEZ JORDANA BREWSTER
FAST & FURIOUS 4
NEW MODEL. ORIGINAL PARTS.
NOW SHOWING

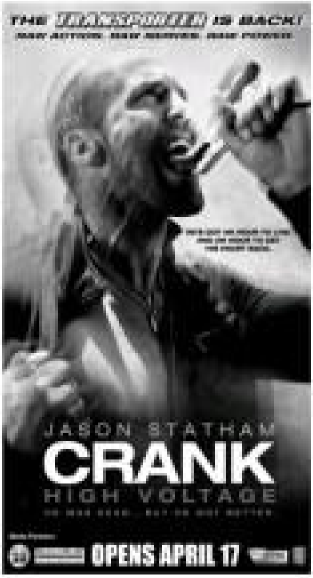
A chat ...

From page G1

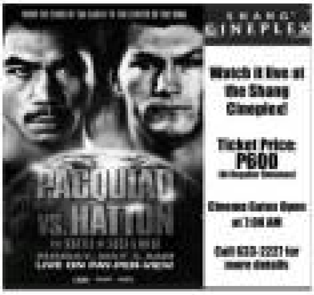
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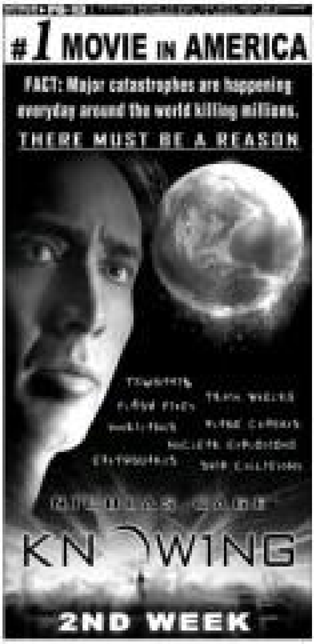


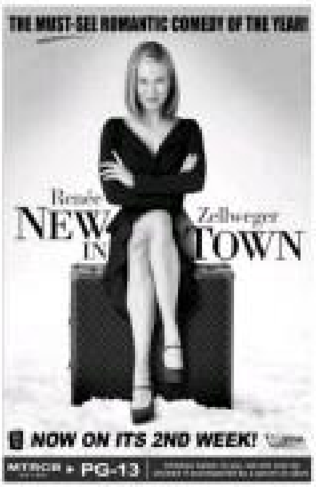












Reese now a star in her kids' eyes



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD
Ruben V. Nepales



Girl turned giant

Voice training

'I've never felt so good about a movie,' she says of 'Monsters'

Raising Deacon











Junior star gets million-peso gift

By the Entertainment staff



GRETCHEN Barretto

RUSHES SUNDAY

Coming soon: TVJ5?

